GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
PIOSONOUS CHEMICALS IN WATER
Patil Shri Pratik Prakashbapu

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some poisonous chemicals has been found in the water of the nearby area of Union Carbide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the information in this regard was not revealed by the Madhya Pradesh Environment Board and people of that area were kept in dark;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K.HANDIQUE)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir, the State Government has got some samples tested and found that some of the tube wells and hand pumps of some of the localities contain pesticides.

(c)to(e) : No Sir, the Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 7th May,2004 directed the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to ensure safe drinking water supply to the 14 gas affected bastis situated near the Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal. The Government of Madhya Pradesh, in compliance with the orders of Supreme Court, took action and installed 98 water tanks at different places in the said bastis. During the initial stage, these tanks were filled up by transportation of water through private and Corporation tankers. As an interim measure, four tubewells were drilled at Raslakhedi, which is 5 kms away from these bastis and two 50,000 gallon capacity sumps were constructed at Bhanpur and Blue Moon Colony. Remaining tanks are still being filled by transportation of water through tankers. Water is being chlorinated and is potable and quality testing carried out regularly.

Based on the sanction by Government of India in April,2006 for a project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission(JNNURM), The Government of Madhya Pradesh had sanctioned Rs.14.18 crore to Bhopal Municipal Corporation under this project for providing safe drinking water through pipelines from the Kolar Reservoir to 14 localities around the UCIL plant site. The work orders amounting to Rs.10.55 crores for laying and joining of the D.I pipes had been issued on 20.7.2007 and Rs.2.74 crores for construction of R.C.C. overhead tanks issued on 6.11.2007. Work related to these activities is under progress. Completion time of these works, as informed by the State Government, is one year from the date of issue of work orders. A Consultant has also been appointed for preparation of a Detailed Project Report(DPR) for distribution of water in Bhopal city, including the 14 bastis.